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URBAN DISTRICT OF BURNHAM-ON-CROUCH

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A N N U A L R E P O R T
of the
M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H

Including the Report of the
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
for the year
1956.

URBAN DISTRICT OF BURNHAM-ON-CROUCH

Committee: June 1956 - May 1957

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Chairman:

Councillor F.C. Brown

Members:

Councillor J.R. Booth

" L.C. Christensen

" C.E. Jefferies

" Mrs. H.D. Robinson

"

The Chairman of the Council, Councillor O.T. Bowton, J.P. (ex officio)

Meeting: Monday of the week preceding the
date of the Council Meeting (held
on the last Tuesday in each month)
at 7 p.m.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

Medical Officer of Health:

T.D. BLOTT, B.Sc., M.B., B.S., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector:

K.C. McCUTCHEON, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Clerk:

Mrs. E.M. Rezelman

INDEX

	<u>Page</u>
Council House Management	16
Factories	6
General Sanitation	5
Houseboats and Jetties	7
Housing	9
Inspection and Supervision of Food	11
Meat and Other Foods	14 & 15
Movable Dwellings and Camping Sites	8
Notifiable Diseases other than Tuberculosis	3
Petroleum Regulations	10
Rodent Control	8
Shops	9
Slaughtermen	9
Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area	3
Tabular Statement of the Causes of Death	4
Tuberculosis	3
Vital Statistics	3
Water Supplies	6
Appendix I - Sanitary Improvements	18

To the Chairman and Members of the
Burnham-on-Crouch Urban District Council.

Madam Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my third Annual Report upon the health of your Urban District.

The crude birth rate for 1956 was 13.0 per thousand of the population. The corrected rate was 15.5 per thousand. This compares with the birth rate for England & Wales for 1956 of 15.6 per thousand. The corresponding figures for 1955 were 17.6 and 15.0 respectively.

These figures do not call for any comment.

The crude death rate for 1956 was 12.2 per thousand of the population. The corrected rate was 9.6 per thousand. This compares with the death rate for England & Wales for 1956 of 11.7 per thousand. The corresponding figures for 1955 were 10.3 and 11.7 respectively.

This once again emphasises the longevity of the inhabitants of Burnham and suggests that this part of the country is particularly healthy.

There were no deaths of infants under one year of age. This I think is a credit to the ante natal services provided in the area.

1956 marked the introduction of the Food Hygiene Regulations. This has involved your Public Health Inspector in a great deal of work. Not only has he had to advise every Food Trader in the area of the requirements of the Regulations but he has devoted considerable time to bringing the subject to the notice of traders and the public. On the whole co-operation has been excellent and the inhabitants of Burnham can be reassured to know that conditions now are better than they have ever been before as regards food hygiene in the town. One or two traders, however, will need to improve their shop premises in the very near future.

The water supply of the town came under public criticism during the Spring and early Summer owing to the presence of small red worm-like creatures in the mains. These are quite harmless from a health point of view being the larvae of a small gnat. They are extremely difficult to remove but every effort is being made to eliminate them.

A number of complaints were received of overflowing drains, particularly in the Orchard Road area of the town. It is hoped that when the new Sewage Works is installed these undoubtedly unsatisfactory occurrences will be prevented.

In April Mr. K.C. McCutcheon was appointed your Public Health Inspector. I have found his keenness and enthusiasm of the greatest help and I wish to thank him for bearing the major responsibility in preparing this report.

I have the honour to be, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

T.D. Blott,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,525 acres
Population - Registrar General's estimate for mid-year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,840
Ratable value at 1st April 1956	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£39,591
Product of a penny rate at 1st April 1956	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£152

VITAL STATISTICS

		M.	F.		
Live Births	Total	25	25	{	(Birth rate per thousand of estimated resident population) 13.0
	Legitimate	24	25		
	Illegitimate	1	-		
Stillbirths	Total (Legitimate)	1	-		
Deaths		25	22	{	(Crude death rate per thousand of estimated resident population) 12.2

This takes into account 19 Inward and 3 Outward Transferable Deaths.

There were no deaths from puerperal sepsis or other puerperal causes.

There were no deaths of infants under one year of age.

There were 9 deaths from cancer (all ages) but none from measles, whooping cough or diarrhoea (under 2 years).

Tabular statement of deaths classified according to ages:-

<u>Age</u>	<u>Number of Deaths</u>
Under 1	-
5 and under 25	-
25 " " 35	1
35 " " 45	1
45 " " 55	2
55 " " 65	3
65 " " 75	13
75 and over	27

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS

Number of cases notified:	Erysipelas	- 2
	Food Poisoning	- 1
	Acute Pneumonia	- 3

TUBERCULOSIS - NEW CASES AND MORTALITY

Two new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified.
There were no deaths from this disease.

TABULAR STATEMENT OF THE CAUSES OF DEATH

<u>Causes of Death</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	-	-
Tuberculosis, other	-	-	-
Syphilitic disease	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-
Meningococcal infections	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	-	-
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	2	4	6
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	-	1
Diabetes	-	-	-
Vascular lesions of nervous system	5	9	14
Coronary disease, angina	6	1	7
Hypertension with heart disease	-	1	1
Other heart disease	3	3	6
Other circulatory disease	1	-	1
Influenza	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-
Bronchitis	1	-	1
Other diseases of the respiratory system	-	-	-
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	-	-
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	-	-
Nephritis and nephrosis	-	-	-
Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-	-
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-
Congenital malformations	-	-	-
Other defined and ill defined diseases	2	3	5
Motor Vehicle accidents	-	-	-
All other accidents	2	-	2
Suicide	-	-	-
Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-
	<u>25</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>47</u>

GENERAL SANITATION

During the year 325 visits were made to properties as a result of complaints received in the Office. 290 of the visits were made to Council houses.

1997 inspections were carried out, details of which are given in the following summary.

Housing

Inspections	20
Visits for the purpose	21
Re-visits re Notices served	86
Certificates of Disrepair etc.	2
Housing Enquiries	59

Factories and Workplaces 46

Food Hygiene

Shops - Meat	17
- Fish	2
- General Provisions	24
- Others	3
Slaughterhouses	136
Dairies	2
Hotel and Restaurant Kitchens, Cafes etc.	21
Other food preparing premises	15
Proposed food premises	7
Ice Cream premises	31
Sampling - Ice Cream	10
- Milk	4
- Water	5

General Sanitation

Visits on Complaint	
Council Houses	290
Others	35
Re-visits re Notices served	128
Re-visits other than above	27
Council houses other visits	259
Movable Dwellings	13
Shops Acts	26
Rodent Control	333
Infectious Diseases	3
Supervision of contract work	153
Houseboats	38
Schools	3
Hairdressers	1
Piggeries	1
Water Supply	9
Drainage	139
Petroleum Acts	3
Refuse Collection and Disposal	12
Miscellaneous visits	13

1997

Water Supplies

During the year 18 samples of water were taken and submitted for examination, 13 of these being from the Council's Waterworks.

The results show that the water was wholesome in character but the one sample which was chemically analysed revealed that the fluorine content was higher than is considered most desirable.

5 samples were taken from well supplies. 3 of these samples were found to be suspicious and 2 were satisfactory. Subsequent samples of those reported as suspicious have proved to be satisfactory.

Factories

The following table shows the number of registered factories within the District and details of the inspections made and action taken:-

1.-Inspections

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspection	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	7	9	-	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	32	25	2	-
(3) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	11	12	1	-
TOTAL	50	46	3	-

<u>Factories (Contd.)</u>	<u>Number of</u>		<u>Number of</u>	
	<u>cases in which defects were found</u>		<u>cases in</u>	
	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>	<u>Referred</u>	
<u>Particulars</u>			<u>To H.M. Inspector</u>	<u>By H.M. Inspector</u>
Want of cleanliness	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)				
(a) Insufficient	1	1	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	1	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	3	1	-	-

<u>Outworkers</u>	<u>Nature of Work</u>	<u>No.</u>
	Wearing Apparel	1

Houseboats and Jetties

Under the Essex County Council Act 1952 the consent of the Local Authority is required for the mooring of houseboats and the placing of jetties thereto in the District. At the end of the year the number of houseboats for which consent had been given was 19, of which 12 were provided with jetties.

The licence in respect of one houseboat was limited until the 31st December, 1956, the vessel having become derelict and its removal or demolition was ordered.

Houseboats and Jetties (Contd.)

Four derelict hulks remained situated on various parts of the foreshore. The contractor who undertook the demolition of these hulks made no effort to do so during the year and the Council terminated the contract. It is hoped that the removal of these hulks will be secured within the next 12 months.

Movable Dwellings and Camping Sites

The number of caravan and camping sites in the District remained at 3 which includes that owned and operated by the Council. The sites are in use from April until October only. Each of the sites is provided with mains water and sanitary accommodation.

There were two licences granted to persons to erect, station and use movable dwellings in the District.

13 visits were made to ensure the maintenance of sanitary conditions. On one site additional water supply points and sanitary conveniences were being provided and this work would be completed in time for the opening of the site next year.

Rodent Control

The following table gives details of the inspections made of various premises for the purpose of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949.

	TYPE OF PROPERTY				
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
	Local Autho- rity	Dwelling Houses (inc. Council Houses)	All Other (including Business Premises)	Total of Cols. (1) (2) & (3)	Agri cultural
1. No. of proper- ties in Local Authority's District	4	1412	193	1609	27
2. No. of proper- ties inspec- ted as a result of:					
(a) Notification	-	16	4	20	-
(b) Survey under the Act	4	18	11	33	17
(c) Otherwise (e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose)	-	202	51	253	10

Rodent Control (Contd.)

The total number of properties inspected was 333, 20 as a result of notification.

12 farms in this District have contracts with the Maldon Rural District Council whereby the Rodent Operator of that Authority pays frequent visits to keep down rats and mice.

A total of 12 minor infestations of rats and 5 of mice were found.

The Council's Sewage Disposal Works were treated on 3 occasions and infestations abated.

In August a 10% test baiting of the sewers in the District was carried out and no evidence of infestation was found. As a result of this the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food has recommended that no further test baiting will be necessary until August 1958.

Shops

During the year 26 inspections were made under the delegated powers of sub sections 3, 4 and 5 of Section 38 of the Shops Act 1950.

Slaughtermen

Two persons were licensed as slaughtermen under the provisions of the Slaughter of Animals Acts 1933 to 1954.

HOUSING

During the year progress was made in securing the demolition of properties included in confirmed Clearance Orders. The Council purchased 16 houses which were the subject of Demolition Orders or included in a Clearance Area. Four of these were demolished by the end of the year.

7 houses were represented under Section 11 of the Housing Act 1936 as being unfit for human habitation and not capable of being rendered fit at a reasonable cost. Demolition Orders were made in each case.

Two Certificates of Disrepair were revoked during the year, the owners having carried out the necessary works of repair.

Statistics for year 1956

Number of Houses erected during the year	
(i) by the Local Authority	nil
(ii) by Private Enterprise	<u>11</u>
	<u>11</u>

A. Houses Demolished

<u>Houses</u>	<u>Displaced</u>
<u>Demolished</u>	<u>during year</u>
	<u>Persons</u> <u>Families</u>

Clearance Areas

(Housing Act, 1936, and Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954)

(1) Houses unfit for human habitation	-	-	-
(2) Houses included by reason of bad arrangement, etc.	-	-	-
(3) Houses on land acquired under Section 27, Housing Act 1936	-	-	-

Not in Clearance Areas

(4) As a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 11, Housing Act 1936	4	-	-
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---	---	---

B. Unfit Houses Closed

Number

(5) Under Section 11, Housing Act 1936 and Sections 10 (1) and 11 (2) Local Govt. (Misc. Prov.) Act 1953	-	-	-
(6) Under Sections (1) and 3 (2), Housing Act 1949	-	-	-
(7) Parts of buildings closed under Section 12, Housing Act 1936	-	-	-

C. Unfit Houses made fit and Houses in which defects were remedied

	<u>By Owner</u>	<u>By Local Authority</u>
(8) After informal action by local authority	25	
(9) After formal notice under		
(a) Public Health Acts	-	-
(b) Housing Act 1936	1	-
(10) Under Section 5, Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954	-	

D. Unfit Houses in Temporary Use
(Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954)

Position at end of quarter

<u>Number of</u>	<u>Number of</u>
<u>separate</u>	<u>contained</u>
<u>dwellings</u>	<u>in col. (1)</u>
(1)	(2)

(11) Retained for temporary accommodation		
(a) under Section 2	-	-
(b) under Section 3	-	-
(c) under Section 4	-	-
(12) Licensed for temporary occupation under Section 6	-	

E. Purchase of Houses by Agreement

13. Houses in Clearance Areas other than those included in confirmed Clearance Orders or Compulsory Purchase Orders, purchased in the quarter	Number of Houses (1)	Number of occupants of houses in col. (1) (2)
	-	-

Notices

The following notices were served during the year:-

Statutory Notices

Housing Act 1936, Section 9. 1

Informal Notices served under the
Housing, Public Health, Food &
Drugs, Factories, Prevention of
Damage by Pests and other Acts

Notices Served 47
Complied with 46

Petroleum Regulations

During the year ten licences were granted under the Petroleum Acts and Regulations to the occupiers of premises for the storage of petroleum spirit.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

On 1st January the Food & Drugs Act 1955 came into operation repealing the Food & Drugs Act 1938, the Food & Drugs (Milk, Dairies and Artificial Cream) Act 1950 and the Food & Drugs Act 1954. Also on 1st January the Food Hygiene Regulations 1955 came into operation. These Regulations lay down requirements in respect of:-

- (1) The cleanliness of food premises, stalls, etc. and of apparatus and equipment.
- (2) The hygienic handling of food.
- (3) The cleanliness of persons engaged in the handling of food, and the action to be taken when such persons suffer from or are carriers of certain infections.
- (4) The construction, repair and maintenance of food premises, stalls, vehicles, etc. and the facilities to be provided.

- (5) The temperatures at which certain foodstuffs that are particularly liable to transmit diseases are to be kept in food premises.

In April an illustrated guide to the Food Hygiene Regulations was issued to all food traders in the district as it was felt that this would help the persons concerned to understand the requirements of the Regulations and that their co-operation in raising the standard of food hygiene would result.

In May a talk was given to Members of the local Chamber of Trade on the subject of the Food Hygiene Regulations and they gave the assurance that they would co-operate with the Local Authority in the implementation of the Regulations.

It will take time to reach the target aimed for and I can report that progress so far has been satisfactory and the improvements achieved have been brought about without resort to statutory action.

The Members of the Public can assist considerably in raising the standard of hygiene, particularly with regard to the handling of food, by drawing the attention of the food traders to any unhygienic practices they observe.

The following types of food business are carried on in the district at 59 premises:-

Ice Cream	25	Milk Distributors	5
Grocery Provisions, Bread, Confectionery etc.	28	Dairies	1
Greengrocery & Fruit	6	Bakehouses	3
Wet Fish	4		
Fried Fish	2	Butchers	3
Hotels, Restaurants, Cafes, Clubs and Licensed Premises	20	Slaughterhouses	1

As can be seen from the preceding table there are a number of premises in the district which retail a very varied selection of foodstuffs.

Registered Premises

Food & Drugs Act 1955, Section 16

There are in the district 28 premises registered under Section 16 of the Food & Drugs Act 1955, 25 of these being in respect of ice cream premises and 3 for the purpose of the preparation or manufacture of sausages or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food intended for sale.

The registration of manufacturers or vendors of ice cream is also secured by Section 158 of the Essex County Council Act 1933 and the number of persons registered is 25.

During the year a total of 48 inspections were made of these premises. Ice cream was manufactured in only one case by the complete cold mix method and this ceased towards the end of the year. In all other cases the ice cream sold in the district is sold prepacked.

Milk and Dairies Acts and Orders

There are in the District five registered distributors of milk and 1 registered dairy. All milk sold in the district is designated milk. The following licences were issued during the year:-

Dealers Licences authorising the use of special designations

Tuberculin Tested	-	3
Sterilised	-	2
Pasteurised	-	2

Supplementary Licences

Tuberculin Tested	-	1
Sterilised	-	1
Pasteurised	-	1

Sampling

Milk

<u>Type of Sample</u>	<u>No. Examined</u>	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>
Tuberculin Tested			
Pasteurised	1	1	-
Pasteurised	2	2	-
Tuberculin Tested			
Raw	1	1	-

Sampling (Contd.)

Ice Cream

Ten samples of ice cream were submitted for examination and the results are set out below.

<u>No.</u>	<u>Type of Sample</u>	<u>Grade</u>			
		<u>I</u>	<u>II</u>	<u>III</u>	<u>IV</u>
7	Pre-packed	6	1	-	-
3	Loose	3	-	-	-

Samples in Grades I and II are considered satisfactory.

Registration of Food Hawkers

This is secured by Section 103 of the Essex County Council Act 1952 and the number of persons so registered was 4.

Meat Inspection

Meat inspection was carried out during the year at the one slaughterhouse in the district. The number of visits made for this purpose was 136, of which 85 were made outside normal working hours.

The following table gives details of the number of animals slaughtered and inspected and details of condemnations:-

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	<u>Cattle excluding Cows</u>	<u>Cows</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep & Lambs</u>	<u>Pigs</u>	<u>Horses</u>
Number killed (if known)	84	69	207	197	985	-
Number inspected	84	69	207	197	985	-

All diseases except

Tuberculosis &
Cysticerci

Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	1	2	1	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	13	16	-	16	81	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysterci	15.4	23.2	0.96	9.2	8.3	-

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part
(Contd.)

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	6	7	-	-	54	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	7.1	10.1	-	-	5.4	-

Cysticercosis

Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

The weight of meat and offal rejected as diseased or unfit was 2,328 lbs.

Meat inspection during the period when this Authority was without a Public Health Inspector was carried out by the Officers of the Maldon Rural District. Reciprocal arrangements operated with the Borough of Maldon and Maldon Rural District Council for meat inspection during periods of annual leave etc.

Other Foods

The following foodstuffs were found to be unfit for human consumption and were voluntarily surrendered and disposed of.

<u>Tinned Foods</u>	<u>No. of Tins</u>
Fish	1
Fruit	23
Vegetables	11
Milk	7
Meat	3

<u>Other Foods</u>	<u>Weight</u>
Sweetbreads	8½ lbs.

Condemned food is disposed of either by incineration, burying, or disposed of for animal products.

COUNCIL HOUSE MANAGEMENT

The number of houses now controlled by the Public Health Inspector's Department is 221. The following table shows the various defects or items of disrepair which were the subject of complaint or were discovered as a result of inspections made and in connection with which instructions were given for the execution of the necessary repairs.

Exterior

Rainwater guttering and downpipes repaired or renewed	13	
Doors and windows eased and repaired	13	
Window fasteners, stays and hinges repaired	5	
Broken glass renewed	10	
Roofs repaired	14	
Flues and chimney stacks repaired	5	
Louvred and other chimney pots fitted	2	
Dampness remedied	1	
Gates and fences repaired	4	
External walls repointed or repaired	1	
Dustbins renewed	16	
Rainwater butts renewed	3	
Doors and windows weatherproofed	6	
Miscellaneous	<u>8</u>	101

Drainage

Gullies repaired	4	
Drains repaired	1	
Blocked drains cleared	<u>9</u>	14

Interior

Broken locks or lock furniture repaired or renewed	2	
Wall and ceiling plaster repaired	11	
Redecorations (new tenancies	4	
(other tenancies	2	
Kitchen ranges - repaired or renewed	5	
- miscellaneous repairs	2	
Rayburn Cookers - firebricks fitted to	22	
- new bottom grates	10	
- miscellaneous repairs	2	
Open fires - tiled surrounds repaired	6	
- firebricks repaired or renewed	9	
- new stools supplied	9	
- miscellaneous repairs	8	
Gas Cookers	2	
Floors repaired	2	
Faulty electrical fittings repaired or renewed	13	
Miscellaneous woodwork repairs	<u>13</u>	122

Carried forward

237

Brought forward

237

Water Supplies

Ball valves repaired to - water waste preventers	29	
- storage tanks	13	
Taps repaired or renewed	5	
Perished tap washers renewed	2	
Water storage tanks repaired or renewed	11	
Hot water supply piping repaired or renewed	14	
Cold water supply piping repaired or renewed	8	
Burst and frozen pipes repaired	<u>43</u>	125

Sanitary Facilities

Draining boards repaired or renewed	14	
Waste pipes repaired or unstopped	12	
W.C. pans renewed	3	
W.C. seats repaired or renewed	4	
Leaking W.C. cone and other joints repaired or renewed	3	
Plinths formed to rear edge of sinks	5	
Water waste preventers repaired or renewed	26	
Miscellaneous	<u>4</u>	<u>76</u>

438

The external painting programme for the year consisted of 24 properties and a total of 153 visits were made in connection with the supervision of this work.

The third part of the pointing contract of the 1919 houses was completed.

APPENDIX I

SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS OBTAINED DURING THE YEAR AS A
RESULT OF FORMAL AND INFORMAL ACTION

Roofs repaired	3
Rainwater gutters and downpipes repaired or renewed	10
Walls repaired	2
Wall and ceiling plaster repaired	17
Floors repaired	13
Increased sub floor ventilation	3
Stairs and stair rails repaired	2
Woodwork of windows and doors repaired	2
Sashcords, glazing and putties repaired or renewed	5
Stoves and fire grates repaired or renewed	8
Flues and chimney stacks repaired or rebuilt	2
Dampness remedied	8
Rodent infestations abated	16
Drainage	
Drain Tests -- new drains	1
- existing drains	5
Drains - cleansed	9
- repaired	4
Sewers cleansed	19
Water Supply	
Sufficient water supply provided	4
Water supply piping or fittings repaired or renewed	2
Sinks provided	1
Food premises - improvements	<u>9</u>
	145
	<u>145</u>

